



Department of Washington Auxiliary Outreach FAQ's

What is Auxiliary Outreach?

Auxiliary Outreach is volunteer work performed by an Auxiliary under the direction of another organization, for the benefit of their community or its institutions. It is a donation of time, not in-kind or monetary donations. It is about collaborating with other organizations in our communities to help improve where we live.

Auxiliary Community Outreach can:

- Be performed by people of any age, skill set or ability level.
- Benefit any group of people such as youth, senior citizens and those with disabilities.
- Benefit animals, the environment and public spaces.
- Be done in communities of all types and sizes – rural, suburban and urban, small and large.

What are examples of Auxiliary Outreach?

- Participation in walks that benefit other organizations as an event spotter, water station volunteer, timekeeper, etc. (Walking or running in the race is not part of Auxiliary Outreach.)
- Working with local police on child ID kits.
- Working with firefighters on fire safety and prevention.
- Working with EMTs to host CPR training.
- Handing out food at soup kitchens.
- Delivering food for Meals on Wheels.
- Volunteering at an animal shelter.
- Working with parks and recreation departments to plant trees, adopt-a-park initiatives and develop community art installations.

What's Not Considered Auxiliary Outreach?

Auxiliary Outreach is for projects NOT AFFILIATED with VFW or VFW Auxiliary Programs. Volunteer work that is performed for the benefit of the Post or Auxiliary is NOT considered Community Outreach.

Examples of projects that do not qualify include:

- Repairs to, maintenance or beautification of the Post home.
- Cooking or serving a meal for a Post or Auxiliary fundraiser.
- "Buddy"[®] Poppy distribution.
- VFW or Auxiliary meetings, conventions, conferences or schools of instruction.
- Providing an honor guard at a member's funeral.
- Flying the American Flag.
- Conducting Flag retirement programs.



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- Church activities for one specific congregation and not the entire community (e.g., usher, elder, deacon, minister, etc.)

How do you find partnering opportunities?

- Mine your members, family, friends and neighbors. Find what their interests are and what they do.
- Check local community bulletin boards and city/ county/neighborhood calendars.
- Look for opportunities in your local newspapers and magazines.
- Reach out to find the right contacts and ask if their groups or organizations need assistance.
- Develop ideas and present the possible partnership to your Auxiliary at a meeting for approval.
- Put the plan into motion under the direction of your partner.

How do I identify myself as an Auxiliary member volunteering for another organization?

Wear something that signifies you are a member of the VFW Auxiliary. For example, a membership pin, shirt, hat, jacket or vest.

Other Information

Auxiliary Outreach is not to be reported under any other Auxiliary Programs.

Auxiliary Outreach participation by our members is completely under the direction of the sponsoring organization. Remember you are the volunteer!

Partnerships are to be approved by vote of the Auxiliary and recorded in your minutes.

Sponsoring, planning, funding or arranging for activities concerning the event are NOT reportable under the Auxiliary Outreach Program

Events may only need a handful of Auxiliary members at a time. If the partnership is a regular activity (e.g., monthly intake volunteer at the blood bank), only one member may be scheduled or needed to volunteer. Keep track throughout the year of those long-standing partnerships.

Can your Post Home or meeting location be the site of your partnership?

Yes, under certain circumstances. If the event is completely under the control of your sponsoring partner and all other requirements of the Program have been met, you may volunteer and report this partnership.

Can the partnership be a single event?

Partnerships in Auxiliary Outreach may be a single event or regular ongoing events throughout the year.